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Beauty & the Beach

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New China committee debuts with eye on major policy shifts

By KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A special House committee dedicated to countering China will make its debut on Tuesday, the opening act in what lawmakers hope will be a robust effort to overcome partisan divisions and address a “generational challenge” to America’s national security.

The committee’s chairman, Rep. Mike Gallagher, R-Wis., says he’s looking to bridge differences rather than exploit them. One of the former Marine’s first efforts in that regard will be a hearing focused on inform-

ing Americans about what he says is the threat posed by the Chinese Communist Party.

Gallagher has grand visions for the Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party. He hopes it can shepherd competing bills over the finish line during the next two years and issue a set of recommendations on long-term policies. But as the committee holds its first hearing Tuesday evening in prime time, his first mission will be to communicate to Americans what is at stake.

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Chairman Mike Gallagher, R-Wis., left, working with Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Ill., the ranking member, right, leads the newly-formed House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, as the panel adopts its rules ahead of a primetime hearing later tonight, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023.

Associated Press

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New China committee debuts with eye on major policy shifts

continued from Front

"We're doing some level-setting here: Why should someone care about the threat posed by the CCP?" Gallagher said. "Or to put it differently, what did we get wrong about the Chinese Communist Party and what do we need to get right about it so as to have a more successful and enduring strategy going forward?"

So far, Gallagher appears to have Democratic buy-in and support. The vote to create the committee was bipartisan, 365-65. Opponents on the Democratic side largely voiced the concern that the committee could stir an even greater rise in anti-Asian hate crimes. Gallagher said he is committed to ensuring the focus is on the Chinese Communist Party, not on the people of China.

"We want to lead with that sort of human rights focused, values-focused agenda," Gallagher said. "And that's an area of unity, too, for a lot of Democrats and Republicans."

Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi, D-Ill., the ranking Democrat on the committee, said the CCP is counting on lawmakers to be "fractious, divided, partisan and we have to do the opposite." "We have no choice but to rise to the challenge at this point. It's that serious,"



Chairman Mike Gallagher, R-Wis., center, leads the GOP's newly-formed House Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, as the panel adopts its rules ahead of a primetime hearing later tonight, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023.

Associated Press

Krishnamoorthi said.

Rep. Ro Khanna of California, another Democrat on the committee, said he expects Gallagher will set a sobering tone.

"The hope is that Congress can still rise to a generational challenge, and that is getting our China policy correct," Khanna said. "And there are areas that can be bipartisan, from bringing good jobs back to making sure we're deterring any invasion in the Taiwan Strait."

The witnesses for Tuesday's hearing includes two for-

mer advisers to President Donald Trump: Matthew Pottinger, the deputy national security adviser who resigned immediately after the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol; and H.R. McMaster, who was national security adviser from February 2017 to April 2018.

McMaster is no stranger to testifying about the threats he sees from China. He has warned Congress that the U.S. clung too long to the idea that China would liberalize its economy and form of governance as it

was welcomed into international systems like the World Trade Organization. He has recommended the U.S. not engage in trade or investment that transfers sensitive technology the CCP can use to gain military and economic advantages. He also has testified the U.S. should not do business in China in a way that helps the CCP stifle freedom and perfect its technology-enabled police state. Tong Yi, a Chinese human rights advocate, will amplify those concerns at the hearing.

She was arrested in the 1990s after serving as an interpreter to a leading dissident who had urged the U.S. to condition trade on China's human rights performance. She spent nine months in detention before being handed a two-and-a-half year sentence for "disturbing social order" and sent to a labor camp, where she said authorities organized other inmates to beat her up.

"In the U.S., we need to face the fact that we have helped feed the baby dragon of the CCP until it has grown into what it now is," she said in prepared remarks provided to The Associated Press. "Since the 1990s, U.S. companies have enriched themselves by exploiting cheap labor in China and have, in the process, also enriched the CCP."

The reaction to a suspected Chinese spy balloon in the U.S. earlier this month demonstrates the political tightrope that lawmakers will walk to prevent the committee from becoming a dividing force rather than a uniting one. Republicans were highly critical of the Biden administration for not shooting down the balloon days earlier than it did, while Democrats defended Biden and stressed that he followed the military's recommendation on when to take it down. □



Associate Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson stands as she and members of the Supreme Court pose for a new group portrait following her addition, at the Supreme Court building in Washington, Oct. 7, 2022.

Associated Press

By **MARK SHERMAN** and **JESSICA GRESKO**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson has written her first major-

Justice Jackson writes 1st Supreme Court majority opinion

ity opinion for the Supreme Court.

The opinion released Tuesday in a dispute between states over unclaimed money is one of roughly a half dozen she is expected to write by the time the court finishes its work for the summer, usually in late June. The decision was unanimous, though all the justices didn't join the whole opinion.

Each justice typically writes at least one opinion from the seven separate two-week arguments sessions the court holds from early

October to late April. But in January and February, for example, the court has only seven argued cases each month, meaning there are not enough to go around. Jackson joined the high court on June 30, following the retirement of Justice Stephen Breyer. Jackson, 52, is the first Black woman to serve as a justice and just the third Black person on the court. The others are Justice Clarence Thomas, the longest-serving among the nine justices, and the late Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Jackson wrote her first dissenting opinion in November, in support of a death row inmate from Ohio who failed to win Supreme Court review of his case.

Lawyers for the inmate, Davel Chinn, argued that the state suppressed evidence that might have altered the outcome of his trial.

Jackson wrote that she would have ordered lower courts to take another look at the case.

Only Justice Sonia Sotomayor joined Jackson's opinion. □

Biden to nominate Julie Su as next U.S. labor secretary

By SEUNG MIN KIM and
ZEKE MILLER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden is nominating Julie Su, the current deputy and former California official, as his next labor secretary, replacing the departing incumbent, former Boston Mayor Marty Walsh.

Su, a civil rights attorney and former head of California's labor department, was central to negotiations between labor and freight rail companies late last year, working to avert an economically debilitating strike. She also has worked to broaden employee training programs and crack down on wage theft. If confirmed by the Senate, Su would also be the first Asian American in the Biden administration to serve in the Cabinet at the secretary level.

Biden, in a statement on Tuesday, called her a "champion for workers."

"Julie is a tested and experienced leader, who will continue to build a stronger, more resilient, and more inclusive economy that provides Americans a fair return for their work and an equal chance to get ahead," he said.

"She helped avert a national rail shutdown, improved access to good jobs free from discrimination through my Good Jobs Initiative, and is ensuring that the jobs we create in critical sectors like semiconductor manufacturing, broadband and healthcare are good-paying, stable and accessible jobs for all."

Su was considered to lead the department when Biden won the White House but instead became the department's deputy. Walsh announced his intention to leave the administration earlier this month to lead the National Hockey League Players' Association. Su will serve as the acting secretary until the Senate acts on her nomination.

Biden had been under pressure from the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and other

Asian American and Pacific Islander advocates to select Su to head the department.

This administration was the first in more than two decades to not have a Cabinet secretary of AAPI descent, despite its regular declarations that it was the most diverse in history. Vice President Kamala Harris and U.S. Trade Representative Katherine Tai are of AAPI descent but don't lead a Cabinet department.

Su, if confirmed, would also expand the majority of women serving in the president's Cabinet. She was confirmed by the Senate to her current role in 2021 by a 50-47 vote.

Su's nomination drew swift support from Democrats on Capitol Hill, with Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer saying she would be "phenomenal" in the job.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., who will preside over Su's confirmation hearing as chair of the Senate health, education, labor and pensions committee, praised the selection. Sanders had urged consideration of Sara Nelson, the president of the flight attendants union, but made clear Su had his strong support.

"I'm confident Julie Su will be an excellent Secretary of Labor," he tweeted. "I look forward to working with her to protect workers' rights and build the trade union movement in this country."

But Louisiana Sen. Bill Cassidy, the top Republican on the Senate health, education and labor committee who opposed Su when she was selected for deputy secretary, called her work overseeing the department "troubling" and "anti-worker."

The committee should "have a full and thorough hearing process," Cassidy said.

Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif., who chairs the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, said she was "overjoyed" by the selection, thanking Biden in a tweet for "nominating your



Julie Su, of Calif., speaks during a hearing of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee for her to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, on Capitol Hill, March 16, 2021, in Washington. Associated Press

first AAPI Cabinet Secretary!"

"It certainly is better late than never," Chu said in a brief interview, citing CAPAC support for Su two years ago for the top La-

bor post and praising Su's credentials as a leader and enforcer of labor laws including minimum wage and occupational safety standards.

She said GOP criticism

about Su had been fully vetted two years ago and that the coming confirmation process will show their charges "have no basis."

Chu noted that Biden had said he would name a Cabinet that looked like America, and "he fulfilled that promise."

Su's nomination also comes at a key moment for labor unions, which have been facing a decline in membership for decades. Unions gained some momentum as workers at major employers such as Amazon and Starbucks pushed to unionize.

But Biden — an avowed pro-union president — had to work with Congress to impose a contract on rail workers last year to avoid a possible strike. □

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White House: No more TikTok on gov't devices within 30 days

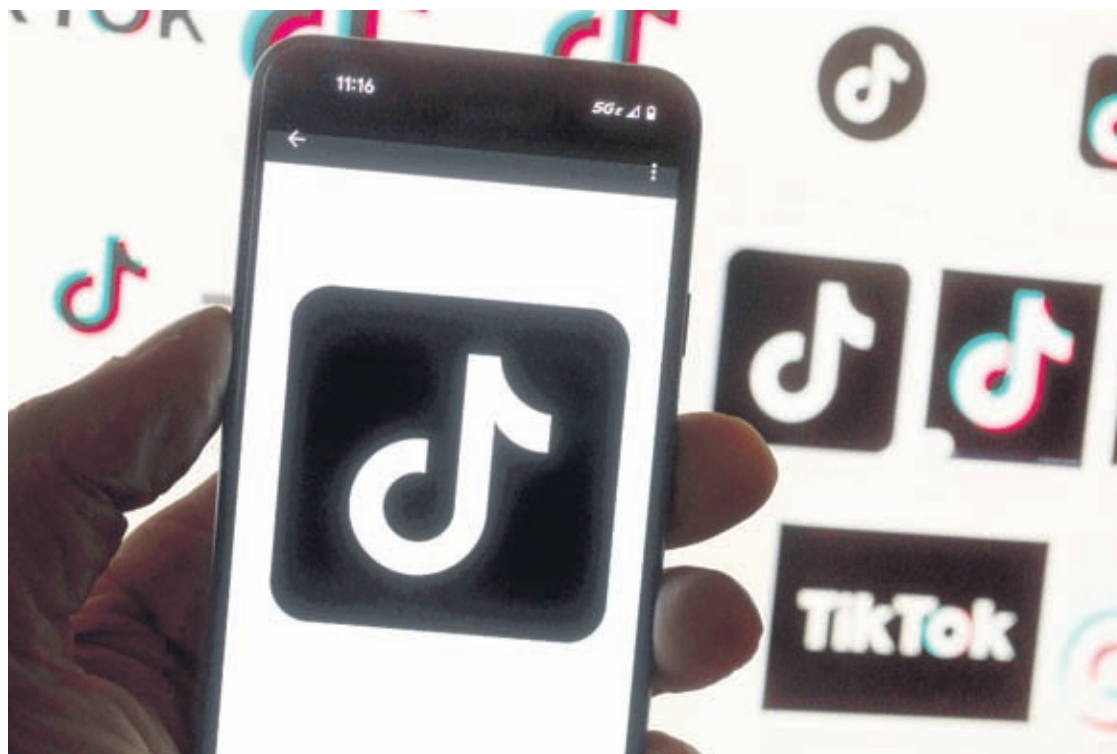
By SEUNG MIN KIM

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House is giving all federal agencies 30 days to wipe TikTok off all government devices, as the Chinese-owned social media app comes under increasing scrutiny in Washington over security concerns.

The Office of Management and Budget calls the guidance, issued Monday, a "critical step forward in addressing the risks presented by the app to sensitive government data." Some agencies, including the Departments of Defense, Homeland Security and State, already have restrictions in place; the guidance calls on the rest of the federal government to follow suit within 30 days. The White House already does not allow TikTok on its devices.

"The Biden-Harris Administration has invested heavily in defending our nation's digital infrastructure and curbing foreign adversaries' access to Americans' data," said Chris DeRusha, the federal chief information security officer. "This guidance is part of the Administration's ongoing commitment to securing our digital infrastructure and protecting the American people's security and privacy."



The TikTok logo is seen on a cell phone on Oct. 14, 2022, in Boston.

The guidance was first reported by Reuters.

Congress passed the "No TikTok on Government Devices Act" in December as part of a sweeping government funding package. The legislation does allow for TikTok use in certain cases, including for national security, law enforcement and research purposes.

TikTok spokesperson Brooke Oberwetter said Monday: "The ban of TikTok on federal devices passed in December without any deliberation, and unfortunately that approach has served as a blueprint for other

world governments. These bans are little more than political theater."

House Republicans are expected to move forward Tuesday with a bill that would give Biden the power to ban TikTok nationwide. The legislation, proposed by Rep. Mike McCaul, looks to circumvent the challenges the administration would face in court if it moved forward with sanctions against the social media company.

If passed, the proposal would allow the administration to ban not only TikTok but any software applica-

tions that threaten national security. McCaul, the chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee, has been a vocal critic of the app, saying it is being used by the Chinese Communist Party to "manipulate and monitor its users while it gobbles up Americans' data to be used for their malign activities."

"Anyone with TikTok downloaded on their device has given the CCP a backdoor to all their personal information. It's a spy balloon into your phone," the Texas Republican said in a statement Monday.

Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., his counterpart in the Senate, did not shut down the idea of the chamber taking up a proposal that would empower Biden to take action against TikTok, saying it was "certainly something to consider."

Oberwetter said: "We hope that when it comes to addressing national security concerns about TikTok beyond government devices, Congress will explore solutions that won't have the effect of censoring the voices of millions of Americans." TikTok, owned by ByteDance Ltd., remains extremely popular and is used by two-thirds of teens in the U.S. But there is increasing concern that Beijing could obtain control of American user data that the app has obtained.

The company has been dismissive of the ban for federal devices and has noted that it is developing security and data privacy plans as part of the Biden administration's ongoing national security review.

Canada also announced Monday that it is banning TikTok from all government-issued mobile devices. The European Union's executive branch said last week it has temporarily banned TikTok from phones used by employees as a cybersecurity measure. □



Theranos founder and CEO Elizabeth Holmes, center, walks into federal court in San Jose, Calif., Nov. 18, 2022.

Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Disgraced Theranos CEO Elizabeth Holmes is citing her recently born child as another reason she should be allowed to delay the start of a more than 11-year prison

sentence while her lawyers appeal her conviction for duping investors about the capabilities of her failed company's blood-testing technology.

The birth of Holmes' sec-

Elizabeth Holmes has 2nd child as she tries to avoid prison

ond child was confirmed in court documents filed last week in advance of a March 17 hearing about her bid to remain free during an appeals process that could take years to complete.

The filing didn't disclose the date of the birth or the child's gender, but the news isn't a surprise. Holmes, 38, was pregnant at the time of her Nov. 18 sentencing in the same San Jose, California, courtroom where a jury convicted her on four felony counts of fraud and conspiracy.

The start of that trial had

been delayed so Holmes could give birth to her first child, a son. Holmes had both children with her current partner, William "Billy" Evans. She met Evans after her 2016 break-up with her former lover and business partner, Ramesh "Sunny" Balwani, who was convicted on 12 counts of fraud and conspiracy in a separate trial.

Balwani, 57, is also trying to convince U.S. District Judge Edward Davila to delay the start of his nearly 13-year prison sentence. A hearing on his request was held earlier this month, but Davila

hasn't issued a ruling yet.

Holmes isn't citing her two children as the only reason she should be allowed to stay out of prison during her appeal.

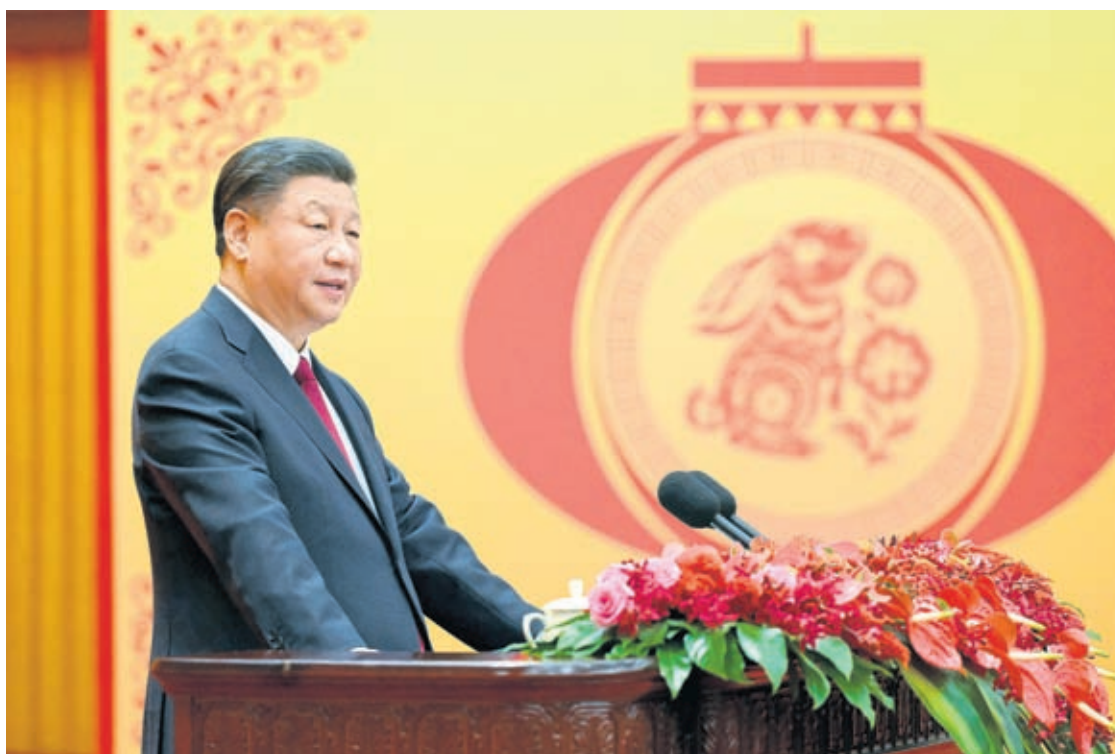
Her lawyers contend that an array of mistakes and abuses made during her trial make it likely her conviction will be overturned. They are also pointing to Holmes' unblemished record while she has been free on bail during the four-and-half years since her criminal indictment as evidence that she isn't a flight risk or a danger to the community. □

China purging 'Western erroneous views' from legal education

BEIJING (AP) — China has ordered closer adherence to the dictates of the ruling Communist Party and leader Xi Jinping in legal education, demanding that schools "oppose and resist Western erroneous views" such as constitutional government, separation of powers, and judicial independence.

The order was dated Sunday, a week before China's ceremonial parliament begins its annual session and reinforces the leading role on ideology assumed by Xi, who is named no less than 25 times in the document. Already China's most powerful leader in decades, Xi was granted a third five-year term as party leader last year and has removed term limits on the presidency, effectively allowing him to rule for life.

Similar directives have been issued in past, with students encouraged to report on professors who speak positively about Western concepts of governance. Despite the intertwining of the Chinese and global economies, Xi has sought to purge liberal Western concepts from the education system, ordered that foreign religions be "sinitized" in order to operate in China. He has also attempted, with limited success, to reorganize popular culture along more conservative lines, going so far as to ban "effeminate" men from the state broadcaster.



In this photo released by Xinhua News Agency, Chinese President Xi Jinping delivers a speech for a Spring Festival reception the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on Jan. 20, 2023.

Associated Press

The legal profession has been a particular target, and in the early hours of July 9, 2015, three years into Xi's first term as party general secretary, a series of raids nationwide resulted in the detention of some 300 human rights lawyers and associated activists. Under such relentless pressure, activist lawyers have been intimidated into silence, effectively preventing the emergence of dissenting voices and public intellectuals independent of the party.

Such approaches are in line with Xi's more muscular foreign policy that seeks to challenge and possibly supplant the American-led

international order that advocates for multiparty democracy, civil society and human rights.

The directive from the party's General Office said teachers and students of law and legal theory workers must be guided to have a "clear-cut position and take a firm stance in the face of issues of principle and major issues of right and wrong." The General Office circulates information within the 96 million-member party, including drafting directives and memos.

In a section titled "Adhere to the Correct Political Direction," the directive says teachers and students must

"comprehensively implement the party's education policy, insist on educating people for the party and the country, and focus on cultivating builders and successors of the cause of socialist rule of law."

"Oppose and resist Western erroneous views such as 'constitutional government,' 'separation of three powers,' and 'independence of the judiciary,' it says.

While China's constitution pays lip service to ideas such as freedom of speech and religious observation, it places the interests of the party above all. Past attempts at promoting even grassroots democracy

at the village level have sputtered in the face of the party's overwhelming power and the authorities' willingness to use force and coercion to achieve their desired outcomes.

Apart from a tiny and beleaguered dissident community, the Chinese public has been largely been willing to accept total party control in return for consistent improvements in quality of life. That arrangement has at times been challenged, however, amid a drastically slowing economy, a crisis in local government finances and heavy handed enforcement of COVID-19 containment measures that have prompted rare public protests.

Criticism of the party and government policies is much more lively online, despite censorship and the threat of punishment for those who create and disseminate them.

The annual session of the National People's Congress, comprised of 2,977 handpicked members, opens Sunday with an annual report on the work of government presented by outgoing Premier Li Keqiang.

The chairman of the body is also due to issue a report, which in past years has also contained pledges to eschew Western political government such as separation of powers and an independent judiciary. □

Pakistani court orders arrest of former premier Imran Khan

By **MUNIR AHED**
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — A Pakistani court on Tuesday issued an arrest warrant for former Prime Minister Imran Khan, as the cricket star-turned-politician called on his supporters to keep up protests amid a roiling political crisis.

The court in the capital Islamabad that ordered the former premier's arrest said Khan had skipped a hearing on charges of selling state gifts and conceal-

ing his assets. Judge Zafar Iqbal's order came on a day of political drama in Pakistan, as three other courts on Tuesday ruled Khan was immune from arrest on separate charges relating to allegations of terrorism, attempted murder against a rival politician, and graft. Tight security and thousands of supporters greeted Imran Khan, 70, as he made his first appearance in Islamabad since being shot in the leg during a protest rally in November.

One of Khan's supporters was killed and a dozen others were wounded in the attack, which drew nationwide condemnation.

Khan has been leading protests for months now calling for early elections to oust the current government of Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif, who says polls will be held later this year when Parliament completes its five-year term.

Fawad Chaudhry, a senior leader from Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party,



Supporters of former Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan gather outside a court, where their leader Khan appeared, in Islamabad, Pakistan, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023.

Associated Press

said there was "a serious threat to the security of Imran Khan and thousands of people" as he moved

around the capital. He said Khan was being paraded from one court to another in "fake cases." □

Brazil delegation visits Amazon region where pair died

By **FABIANO MAISONNAVE ATALAIA DO NORTE, Brazil (AP)** —

A high-level delegation of the Brazilian government traveled on Monday to the remote corner of the Amazon rainforest where British journalist Dom Phillips and Indigenous expert Bruno Pereira were murdered last year, to demonstrate just how much Brazil's new government differs from that of former far-right President Jair Bolsonaro.

The group was led by Sônia Guajajara, Brazil's first minister of Indigenous Peoples. She was joined by the widows of both slain men. The trip involved several flights including a seaplane to arrive in Atalaia do Norte, an impoverished city by the banks of Javari River.

"We are here to reestablish the presence of the Brazilian government in the Javari Valley region," Guajajara told a mostly Indigenous crowd gathered in a small, stifling auditorium. "It is no longer possible for Indigenous people to be cowed and afraid within their own territory."

During his four-year term which ended in January, Bolsonaro attempted to open Indigenous territories to mining, large-scale agriculture, and logging. His promises, combined with the defanging of environmental law enforcement, led to a surge of invasions into Indigenous territories.



Alessandra Sampaio, widow of British journalist Dom Phillips, right, Beatriz Matos, widow of Indigenous expert Bruno Pereira, second right, Sonia Guajajara, Brazil's first Minister of Indigenous Peoples, left, and Joenia Wapichana, President of the National Foundation for Indigenous Peoples, attend a ceremony in Atalaia do Norte, Vale do Javari, Amazonas state, Brazil, Monday, Feb. 27, 2023.

Monday marked the first time that Pereira's widow, Beatriz Matos, has returned to the place where her husband was murdered. She was accompanied by Alessandra Sampaio, Phillips' widow. At several moments, both were moved to tears, receiving warm embraces, songs of tribute, handmade gifts, and speeches of gratitude from Indigenous people present. Matos was recently named head of the Department for Territorial Protection and Isolated and Newly Contacted Peoples at the Indigenous ministry. She is

an anthropologist who did her fieldwork in the region. Her husband had a similar post until, frustrated with the Bolsonaro government, he took leave to consult for the Javari Valley association of Indigenous people. Addressing the crowd, Matos said her family and that of Dom Phillips would be forever grateful for the commitment local people showed to finding the men, and "also the respect, the care, the tributes, and the spiritual guidance."

"I will work for the government and will carry Javari along with me. The depart-

ment will be always open to you," she told the crowd. The Javari Valley Indigenous Territory is roughly the size of Portugal and home to 6,300 people from seven different ethnic groups, some of whom have had no contact with the outside world. For years, the area has been targeted by illegal fishermen and poachers slipping past government outposts to extract riches from the protected waters and forest. With environmental and Indigenous agencies woefully underfunded and understaffed during the administration of

former President Jair Bolsonaro, the ransacking grew worse. Pereira took leave to help local Indigenous people catalog and report illegal hunting and fishing on their own. In so doing, he ran afoul of the local illegal fishing racket. Phillips, who was writing a book on the Amazon, was accompanying him on an expedition last June when they were killed. Their disappearance prompted an international outcry and a massive search. Once their bodies were found, chopped and burned, pressure mounted on authorities to find the killers. Suspects in the murders are in custody in federal prisons. There is no date set for the trial. Brazil's federal police said last month that a local fish trader, Ruben Dario da Silva Villar, conceived the crime and they plan to indict him. Villar provided the ammunition to kill the pair, made phone calls to the confessed killer before and after the crime, and paid his lawyer, police said. He denies wrongdoing. Crime still plagues the border region. On February 23, armed gunmen attacked a federal boat belonging to the Indigenous health agency near the closest city; they made off with the craft and thousands of liters of fuel. They left two crew members bound and blindfolded in the woods. □

Associated Press



Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador gives his regularly scheduled morning press conference, decorated with an image of Francisco "Pancho" Villa, a general in the Mexican Revolution, at the National Palace in Mexico City, Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's president said Tuesday his country is more demo-

cratic than the United States.

President Andrés Manuel

Mexican president: Mexico has more democracy than U.S.

López Obrador's testy comments came after U.S. officials took note of heated public debate in Mexico over López Obrador's recently approved electoral reforms, which critics allege could weaken Mexico's democracy. The reforms would cut spending for the country's electoral authorities. López Obrador angrily rejected any U.S. comment, even though U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price was careful to say in a statement Monday that "We respect

Mexico's sovereignty."

The Mexican president responded "there is more democracy in Mexico than could exist in the United States."

"If they want to have a debate on this issue, let's do it," López Obrador said pugnaciously. "I have evidence to prove there is more liberty and democracy in our country."

The Mexican president is notoriously touchy about criticism, whether it comes from human rights groups, non-governmental organi-

zations, the press, or Mexican regulatory or oversight agencies.

Price said in a statement that "Today, in Mexico, we see a great debate on electoral reforms on the independence of electoral and judicial institutions that illustrates Mexico's vibrant democracy."

"We respect Mexico's sovereignty. We believe that a well-resourced, independent electoral system and respect for judicial independence support healthy democracy." □

Workshop held about available funds for projects related to the history of slavery in Aruba

(Oranjestad)—On Friday morning, an informative and educational workshop was held in regards to the Dutch foundations, namely the Mondriaan Foundation and the Foundation for Cultural Participacion that are available to give support to projects related to the commemoration of 160 years of slavery abolition in the Dutch kingdom.

This workshop was made possible thanks to a collaboration between the Ministry of Culture of Aruba, The Commission for Slavery Awareness Aruba, National Library of Aruba, Foundation for Cultural Participacion and Mondriaan Foundation. Cultural advisors at the Mondriaan Foundation and FCP were present to provide information in regards to current arrangements and available funds for projects and initiatives for the 6 island in the Dutch Caribbean, The Netherlands and Surinam in order to bring awareness on the history and effects of slavery. The workshop was modernized by Yolanda Richardson and given by Dyonna Bennett, Gyonne Goedhoop and Tibisay Sankatsing Nava.

The informative and interactive workshop

The program consisted of one informative section and an interactive section. During the first half of the morning, an extensive presentation was given about who can and how to apply for funding, focus points of each foundation and the importance about the impact of every initiative regarding the topic of slavery awareness. These focal points vary in the ability to develop different perspectives on the history of slavery, establishing networks of community, expanding the ability of the communities to help themselves and stimulate the healing process.

During the interactive section of the workshop, work groups were formed and

based on concrete examples, participants were guided through the thinking and writing process to come up with the best ways to make their ideas concrete when filling in applications for funding. To make this possible, three key questions were posed that will help each petitioner during orientation. These three questions were: 1. What is the role of the community involved and who is involved?; 2. What is the goal and impact of the project?; 3. Identify key partners to collaborate with.

The goal is to get more people approved for available funding to make their ideas concrete

Minister Xiomara Maduro opened and closed the workshop to highlight the goal of this workshop, which is to get more people approved for available funding to make their ideas concrete. It is known that there are various initiatives of individuals with difficulties to get funding for their ideas. By receiving concrete information and extensive explanation on different questions and concerns surrounding finance, those interested can realize their ideas regarding awareness on the history and abolition of slavery on Aruba.

Thank you to those who lend a hand

Minister Maduro expressed her gratitude to the National Library of Aruba, moderator Yolanda, representatives from the Dutch foundations, Dyonne, Gyonne, Tibisay and all the participants for their positive contribution to the workshop. The Minister of Culture hopes to see more people in Aruba collaborate with each other so they can be successful in their petition for funding for projects that will surely contributed to the expansion of Aruba's culture. □



Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at the Hyatt Regency Resort Spa & Casino

PALM BEACH - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority representative Ms. Kimberley Richardson had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished



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Last but not least: check out our website, Instagram and Facebook page! Thank you for supporting our free newspaper, we strive to make you a happy reader every day again. For today we received a lovely message from **Dawn and Duke Ramasco from Pittsfield, Massachusetts**. They have been visiting the island since 1999!

They wrote to us saying: "Aruba to me is as beautiful as the sunset!"

Thank you for sending us this wonderful message sharing what Aruba means to you with us and our readers! □



Visitor", 20+ years "Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".

Honorees were:

Mr. Anthony & Mrs. Marcella Lapadula from New York, United States who were honored as Distinguished Visitors

Mr. Anthony III & Ms. Savannah Lapadula from New York, United States who were honored as Distinguished Visitors.

This symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to the guests who visit Aruba

between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive year mark.

The honorees were asked what their top reasons for returning to Aruba are. The provided reasons by the honorees were as follows below.

The Lapadula Family:

Friendliest people – Aruba's people are amazing, warm, polite and extremely friendly

Aruba's safety – They feel extremely safe with their children in Aruba

Aruba's year-round sunny weather – Its unbelievably consistent

Aruba's Variety of foods – Amazing variety of foods from pizza to 5-start dining Family Friendly – Aruba's people always welcome them and their children no matter where they go on the island

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the Hyatt Regency Resort Spa & Casino bestowed the honor certifications to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and as their home-away-from-home. □

Beauty & THE BEACH

Aruba Today is delighted to share to its readers a new segment called "Beauty and the Beach", where we take a minute to honor our guests who have decided to spend their vacation on our beautiful and warm island.

In this edition, we'd like to give a shout out to **Eddy and Jane from Connecticut, USA**, as they are seen enjoying the sandy beaches with their beautiful family. Aruba is always proud to host all families and guests. We at Aruba Today encourage any visitor of the island to send in their pictures and/or messages; who knows? You might get on the cover!

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The first three students of the EPI traveled to Ireland and Belgium for their internship financed by Erasmus+



Representatives of Colegio EPI and three students are currently in Ireland and Belgium for their internship thanks to the Erasmus+ program and financing.

On January 20, 2023, student Warren Maduro of the Hospitality and Tourism unit signed an agreement, in the presence of the EPI Director, teachers, and family, to travel on Sunday, January 23, 2023, to Ireland for his internship of 4 months. It is a significant achievement for the student, but particularly for the EPI Col-

lege since it is the first time Erasmus+ financed one of their students for the 4-month long international internship.

Warren Maduro will do his internship at the prestigious Slieve Russel Hotel. The EPI's partner in Ireland is South-west College.

Just two weeks after the first student left for his international internship, Justin Lopez of the Hospitality and Tourism Unit and Shirley Acosta Herrera of the Economy Unit signed their agreement and traveled on February 9, 2023, to Gent, Belgium. The representatives of Erasmus+ welcomed them in Gent and will guide them during their stay.



Justin initiated his internship at Van der Valk Hotel in Gent, and Shirley started her internship at Go! Schoengroep Dynamiek.

Their teachers at the EPI and their internship supervisors at their respective institutions, will guide Warren, Justin, and Shirley.

In the past, Colegio EPI granted five students the opportunity to explore

Belgium for two weeks, financed by Erasmus+. The students will explore the country, its culture, the different schools, and the education system. The current project is to send three students for their international internship.

Colegio EPI wishes Warren, Justin, and Shirley much success with their internship in Belgium and Ireland. □



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Article by Etnia Nativa

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What Arubans speak

Episode CXCV - 195

Destination values, native heritage, and cultural identity are what we advocate for in our own particular way of safeguarding all reasons to love Aruba. Etnia Nativa, through this cultural blog, "Island-Insight," shares native cultural awareness, educates, and safeguards native heritage. It is how we encourage you to experiment with an island-keeper state of mind during your stay over. Education breaks down the barriers to greater human understanding, empathy, and empowerment.

During this episode, we want to highlight what "colonization" provoked to the American continent, among other things like, a new linguistic order.

From Alaska to Tierra del Fuego, including the islands of the Caribbean Sea, knowledge of the native languages was fundamental for reasons of material and spiritual control over the native peoples. Various historical documents support the idea that, at least in the early stages of the conquest, the colonizers were concerned with having official interpreters as well as, in the religious field, the need to learn the native language in order to use it for catechizing was essential.

History also tells us not only about the lack of interest and the difficulty of the indigenous people in learning the colonizing language, but also about the lack of interest on the part of the colonizers in teaching it. A situation that forced each one to learn from the other what was convenient for him and what he needed to know. There was such "carelessness" on both sides that in present-day Peru during the Inca Empire, the Indian "Garcilaso" would affirm that the natives, although they understood Spanish in manual matters, forced him to speak it in his native language, Quechua.

Therefore, within this context of relations, beyond the attempts of the political and religious authorities to regulate the formal teaching of the new language, the learning of one or the other language remained in the hands of the daily contact between the members of both castes, both dominant and dominated.

However, it is not only a question of the subordination



of the colonized culture to the colonizing culture but also of the imposition of the colonizing thought so that there is no possibility of thinking. The rules of the "game" were the same in Aruba as they were throughout the rest of the American continent, so our natives, the "colonized," were the ones who had to learn the "new" official language.

Spaniards were the first to colonize Aruba, followed by the Dutch; meanwhile, the natives who spoke the Arawakan tongue slowly developed a dialect, currently known as the Papiamentu language.

Throughout the Dutch history of our island, it was forbidden to speak the Papiamentu language in schools, either on the playground or among students. If a student was caught pronouncing a word in the Papiamentu language, the teachers applied a wooden stick with which they energetically struck the student's palms, not allowing them to express themselves in their mother tongue.

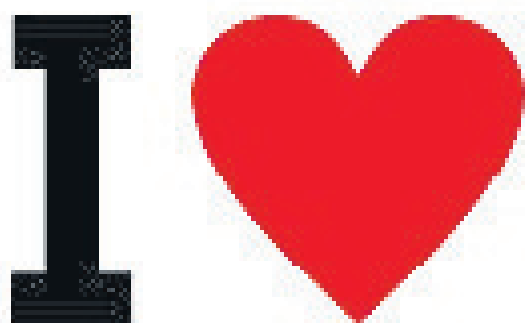
Papiamentu became an official language in Aruba in 2003 and in Bonaire and Curacao in 2007. It has had its own spelling since 1976. The oldest surviving text in Papiamentu is a letter from a Jew from Curaçao from 1775. There are authors who believe that, at least, the linguistic base is older, and there are various theories regarding its origin. What

can be defined is that Papiamentu is a language that has developed on its own through contact between speakers of various languages. To communicate with one another, this language was used as a general way of communication, or "Lingua Franca."

Intrigued by Aruba's origins and its cultural heritage? Then we encourage you to do something outside of the tourist grid. Become one of the few visitors to Etnia Nativa, a private residential encounter set up where you can touch and be touched by authentic Aruban heritage, a spectacle of native art, archaic and archaeological artifacts, lithic tools, colonial furniture, and other items from the islands' bygone era. Get inside a recycled environment full of peace, relaxation, knowledge, and information.

Etnia Nativa is, since 1994, the home of Anthony, our acclaimed columnist, artist craftsman, and island Piache, who guides and lectures you through his resplendent collection. E.N. is the only place that recreates and introduces you to an authentic glimpse into Aruba's native cultural heritage. Something completely different for a change—a contemporary Native Aruba experience!

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Papiamentu

Elliott Loonstra PLY brings Gold back home



(Oranjestad)—Elliott Loonstra left Aruba on February 1st to participate in three tournaments overseas, two in Istanbul, Turkey and one in Cairo, Egypt. The two tournaments in Istanbul were the European President's Cup and the Turkish ParaTaekwondo Open. In the President's Cup, Loonstra fought against Germany winning 9-0 in his first fight. His second fight was against Mexico (currently rank 6th globally) in which it was a very even fight but

Mexico managed to make two kicks in the last 20 seconds of the match, placing Loonstra in 5th place overall.

In the Turkish Parataekwondo Open, Loonstra fought against Turkey after being seeded in the quarterfinals. This match started off in favor of Loonstra but eventually ended up going to golden round as Turkey managed to even up the score. The golden round went in favor of Tur-

key placing Loonstra, once again, in 5th place.

After the Turkish competitions, Elliott Loonstra PLY and his coach Luciano Mazzeo headed to Cairo for the first Egypt Parataekwondo Open. In his first match Loonstra fought an Egyptian athlete scoring 34-4 against his opponent sending him to the finals. In the finals Loonstra fought against another Egyptian. The stadium during the final match was filled with screams for the Egyptian athlete but in the end this match ended in favor for Loonstra, 12-2, resulting in Loonstra standing at the top of the podium with the Gold Medal.

During the awards ceremony Coach Luciano Mazzeo won a trophy for the second best male coach at the tournament showing that he has an outstanding



knowledge about the sport and a great capacity for coaching.

Elliott Loonstra PLY is extremely happy with the results of these tournaments and with the points granted he has moved up in ranking to once again be 7th globally. Elliott Loonstra PLY would like to thank his family for the overwhelming support they have provid-

ed over his career, Romina Martinez of Rorofitness who has helped Loonstra with his physical training over the past two years and BodyZone Aruba that sponsors Loonstra providing him with a space to train and improve his abilities both in Taekwondo and his overall physical performance. A special thank you to the people of Aruba for always giving their support. □

Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation helps young adults make their dreams come true

(Oranjestad)—The Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation (HCLF) promotes opportunities for young adults between 18 and 29 years old to start a training journey as a volunteer, where they form part of the foundation during its activities for teenagers of 13 to 17 years of age.

These volunteers that do brave work with HCLF are called Heart-Centered Impact

Coaches (HCIC) and they contribute in the organization's goal to empower and inspire young people. A HCIC is able to communicate, motivate and provide support for young people on a social and academic level during workshops, seminars and other HCLF activities. This opportunity allows young adults to form connections and make a positive impact in someone's life. Personal and professional development is crucial for a young adult to get to know their skills and purpose that will

further guide them in the future.

Meet fellow HCLF volunteer, Alyeska Lake, better known by her nickname "Aly". She is a 26-year-old young woman raised in San Nicolas, and who now lives in The Netherlands, where she just completed her Masters in Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychologist at Leiden University. Alyeska shared her experience as a Heart-Centered Impact Coach, which helped her become the version of herself she always dreamed of.

How was your experience as a volunteer at HCLF?

"I always enjoyed my time with HCLF and I have no regrets. My favorite memory at HCLF is the sense of belonging I got and the family that I made from the moment I started doing voluntary work. I connected deeply with other volunteers and members of staff during various activities and social moments

that are designed for the development of both volunteers and staff. I always felt proud after talking to the teens during school activities. A moment that stood out for me was when I assisted as a group leader during the Impact Cafés at John Wesley High school, Filomena College Mavo and Abraham de Veer High school. This was when we discussed the topic of mental health. The sessions were very interactive and the teens could feel comfortable to share their thoughts on the matter and other related points about mental health.

How did volunteering at HCLF impact your personal and professional life?

"I discovered that I had more skills that I initially thought. With the support from HCLF, I had the opportunity to develop more skills and talents, and also put these in practice."

"I see myself as a dreamer with big ambitions. To be

able to have the skills to visualize these dreams is one of my biggest goals, and this is thanks to HCLF. Getting to know myself better really helped my mentality and the direction that I want to go in life—personally and professionally. I know exactly who I am, who I want to be, where I want to go, what I want to do and with whom. I believe I already had this in me, but it was through the challenges that HCLF gave me that I was able to realize my full potential and take action."

What is the most valuable part of volunteering at HCLF?

"The most valuable part is that HCLF recognizes you for who you are, not for what you show them. They see you as a whole person and your potential."

Would you recommend other young adults to volunteer at HCLF?

"If you want to be a part of a group that does mean-



ingful work in the lives of teens from San Nicolas, and at the same time want to make significant impact in your own life, join the Heart-Centered Leadership Foundation as a volunteer."

Did Alyeska's experience motivate you to become a Heart-Centered Impact Coach? If you are between 18 and 29 years old, like to give back to the community and are interested in further developing your personal and professional life, please contact HCLF at 5841211 (Whatsapp) or send an e-mail at hclfaruba@gmail.com. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

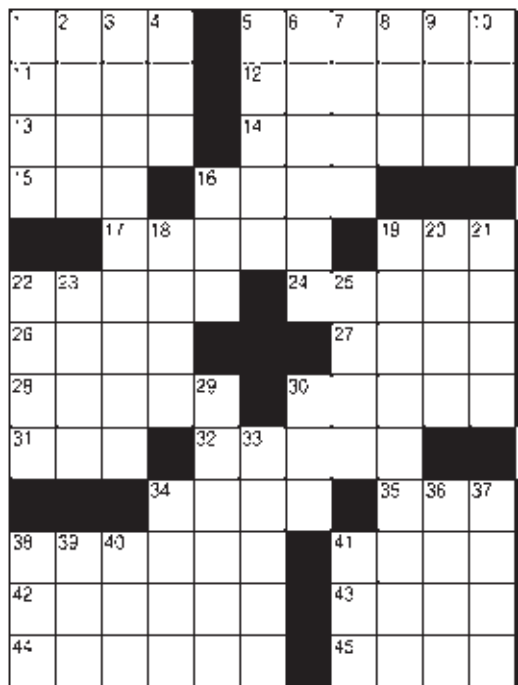
ACROSS
1 Volume school
5 Sacred book
11 Notorious message
12 State without proof
13 Uncool fellow
14 Ob-structed
15 Pendulum path
16 Blocks up
17 Short poem
19 Kitten cry
22 Do a butler's job
24 Town center
26 Goatee setting
27 Makes mistakes
28 Tirades
30 News summary
31 Chick holder
32 Suppress
34 Obligation
35 Deli meat
38 Financially solvent
41 Washed out
42 South Dakota capital
43 Open space

DOWN
1 Singer Turner
2 Finished
3 Sousa nickname, with "the"
4 Wrap up
5 Man at the wheel
6 Stop talking
7 Some charity
8 "Stand" band
9 Long time
10 Sleep spot
16 Clamor
18 "— No Sunshine"



Yesterday's answer

19 Mad Hatter's friend
20 Poet Pound
21 Hornet's kin
22 Plot unit
23 Uneven hairdo
25 Sediment
29 Town center
30 Bright beam
33 Say
34 Frosh quarters
36 Baseball's Rodriguez
37 Substance
38 Tablet download
39 Fragrant tree
40 Oahu garland
41 Light touch



3-1

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

3-1 CRYPTOQUOTE
V N M S D H F G S H X W P N C J

Q N L ' D S X N P C N T S J E X J X N P
G S H X W J S F P D N Q S J G Q H P .

— O E J N X X E
Yesterday's Cryptquote: DESPITE EVERYTHING. NO ONE CAN DICTATE WHO YOU ARE TO OTHER PEOPLE. PRINCE

Computer chip funding to require security, worker benefits

By JOSH BOAK

Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — The

Commerce Department is opening the application process for computer chip manufacturers to access \$39 billion in government support to build new factories and expand production.

All companies seeking the funds will need to show how they plan to develop a local workforce, with firms getting \$150 million or more also required to provide affordable and accessible child care for their workers. The funding is part of the CHIPS and Science Act, which President Joe Biden signed into law last August. □

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Review: Michael B. Jordan delivers a brawler in 'Creed III'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

It must be a daunting prospect to pick up a franchise on the third movie. Add in the pressure of following filmmakers like Ryan Coogler and Steven Caple Jr. in your directorial debut that you're also starring in and it's enough to make you wonder what on earth Michael B. Jordan was thinking.

But "Creed III," in theaters nationwide Friday, is a new start for Adonis Creed. He's finally out of the shadow of his father Apollo and Rocky Balboa, whose legacy loomed large over the first two films (Sylvester Stallone decided "Creed II" would be his last). With Rocky out of the way, and the younger Creed solidly in place as the best in the world, the franchise can breathe a little and grow.

Enter the Dame (not that kind of dame).

This one is in the form of Jonathan Majors, an old buddy from their teenage years in a group home in the early 2000s. Dame, or Damian Anderson, is a bit older than Creed. He's the one who's boxing in the underground matches at night. The young Creed (Thaddeus J. Mixon), a little awkward, a little too eager to please and a little too ready for trouble, is the one carrying water (and bags and gloves) and helping him strategize. There is a palpable menace estab-



This image released by MGM shows Michael B. Jordan as Adonis Creed in a scene from "Creed III."

Associated Press

lished early on with these two — an unequal power and age dynamic, sure, but also the implication that Dame (Spence Moore II) is more than willing to play dirty. He carries a gun. He fixes games. And he has a hold on young Adonis. The flashback ends with a violent altercation outside a convenience store. Dame goes away. Creed becomes Creed.

This flashback is important but does get the film off to a bit of a slow start, jumping forward chronologically to Creed's last fight and then to his present-day retirement life — a luxurious and tranquil existence in the Hollywood Hills in a

modernist mansion with his daughter Amara (Mila Davis Kent) and wife Bianca (Tessa Thompson), who has given up singing mostly to produce hit records. Life is nice for the obscenely rich in LA: The clothes are expensive, the cars are price upon request, the house always spotless and the staff unseen (save for a chef in one scene). At the gym run by Duke (Wood Harris), he's trying to mentor the next generation of champions. Then Dame re-appears and the movie gets its urgency back. His old pal was locked up for 18 years after that incident and is freshly out of prison, wanting to pick up his life and his box-

ing aspirations where he left off. Creed is pleasant but guarded — for much of the film he acts like an aloof celebrity, hyper-conscious of not letting anyone in too close and compartmentalizing the uglier aspects of his past. Still, he takes him out to lunch and offers to help him in any way he can. This is both the right thing to do and also a huge mistake.

"Creed III" is, among other things, about what happens when men don't talk about their feelings (and ignore Duke's advice).

At times, it also feels more like a thriller than a sports film as you watch Dame infiltrate Creed's world. It's al-

ways Creed's idea, there's always an invitation, but Dame's sudden omnipresence starts to feel unavoidable and ominous. Dame has a bit of Eve Harrington in him, but also a very real, very relatable chip on his shoulder for the time he lost. In another movie, he could very well be the underdog we're rooting for — some of the audience may be rooting for him even so. Lurking behind everything is the madness that comes from not being able to do what you were born to do. It's something athletes grapple with earlier than most other professionals. An injury at 23 could take you out when you're just getting started and in this film Creed, Dame and Bianca are having similar existential crises — though Dame's desperation is the driving force behind everything that happens.

Jordan and his filmmaking team craft two particularly stunning matches full of suspense, drama and slow motion sweat beads flying through the air. These are only lessened by the cheesy, unhelpful announcers spouting clichés and no actually helpful exposition or explanation outside the ring. And ultimately, it's a promising debut for the 36-year-old, who shows here that he'll never let his own star ego get in the way of a film: Majors steals the show, and Jordan is there to capture it. □



This image released by Variance Films shows promotional art for the film "RRR."

Associated Press

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

Break out those suspenders

and dancing shoes, M.M. Keeravaani's joyously energetic anthem "Naatu

Ready to dance? 'Naatu Naatu' from 'RRR' is coming to Oscars

"Naatu" will be performed at the Oscars, the show's producers said Tuesday.

With music by Keeravaani and lyrics by Chandrabose, "Naatu Naatu" is one of the most memorable sequences from the Telugu-language action epic "RRR" with its catchy tune and accompanying dance by actors Ram Charan and N.T. Rama Rao Jr.

Singers Rahul Sipligunj and Kaala Bhairava will make the journey to the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles to

perform the song.

"Naatu Naatu" has become a viral sensation outside of the film, racking up more than 122 million views on YouTube and inspiring a TikTok challenge where users attempt to recreate the acrobatic dance-off. South Korean Ambassador Chang Jae-bok's 53-second rendition has received more than 4.8 million views since it was posted Sunday on Twitter.

The tune is competing for the best original song tro-

phy — the blockbuster's sole nomination — against the likes of Lady Gaga, Rihanna, Mitski and David Byrne, and Diane Warren. Rihanna will also be performing "Lift Me Up," from "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," on Oscar night. More performances will be announced over the next two weeks.

The 95th Oscars, hosted by Jimmy Kimmel, will be broadcast live on ABC on March 12. □

LaMelo Ball breaks ankle, latest setback in rough season

By STEVE REED

AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) —

LaMelo Ball's frustrating, injury-plagued season could be over after the point guard broke his right ankle in Charlotte's 117-106 win over the Detroit Pistons on Monday night.

Ball has already missed 27 games this season after he sprained his left ankle on three separate occasions, beginning in the preseason. He and the Hornets (20-43) were playing their best basketball of the season before the point guard fell to the floor on a non-contact play in the third quarter.

X-rays revealed the fracture to Ball's ankle.

"It sucks," Hornets swingman Gordon Hayward said, shaking his head. "Injuries are the worst part of the game." Ball had entered the game with five straight double-doubles and appeared on his way to another with 18 points, six rebounds and five assists before leaving with 9:26 left in the period.

He was also shooting the ball extremely well from deep, having made 47.3% (27 of 57) of his 3-point shots over the last five games. He was 6 of 7 from beyond the



Charlotte Hornets guard LaMelo Ball holds his ankle after being shaken up on a play during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Detroit Pistons in Charlotte, N.C., Monday, Feb. 27, 2023.

Associated Press

arc against the Pistons.

Charlotte's five-game win streak was the team's longest of the season.

"We were starting to figure it out as a team," Hayward said. "He and I were starting to build (chemistry). I think me personally, I was starting to build a good relationship with him on the court and we were finding easy buckets for each other. Some of that is what

we've gone through the whole year, not being able to build that out on the court with different guys being injured. Him at the beginning of the season, then me right after that, and now him again. It's been back and forth with different people through the year, which is tough." Ball had just dribbled behind his back and appeared to be setting up to

work off a screen from center Mark Williams beyond the 3-point arc when he fell to the ground. He grabbed the loose ball and passed to Williams, who found a teammate for a score. Ball was taken to the locker room. Hayward said players figured he had "tweaked something," not knowing the extent of the injury until after the game.

Hornets coach Steve Clif-

ford didn't say how long Ball would be out. But given the severity of the injury and the fact the Hornets only have 19 games remaining and are not in contention for the playoffs, it seems unlikely the team would rush him back.

"The only thing you can do is watch the film, learn from it and then focus on what we have to do tomorrow in practice to get ready for (the next game). Unfortunately, we're experienced at playing without all of them, so it's not like it's going to be brand new," Clifford said. "It's tough, too, because he was starting to play so well, and the team obviously was playing better and better. They're not going to wait for us." Hayward said he texted Ball after the game, but hadn't spoken with him. "I think that is the most important thing when you are injured — stay positive and have a good support system around you including your teammates, family and friends," said Hayward, who broke an ankle on an awkward landing in 2017 while playing for Boston. "He's young and he will bounce back but it is always tough in the moment." □

Rafael Nadal out of Indian Wells, Miami with injured hip

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP)

— Rafael Nadal pulled out of the upcoming hard-court tournaments at Indian Wells and Miami on Tuesday because of the left hip flexor injury that has sidelined him since the Australian Open.

The 22-time Grand Slam champion tweeted about his withdrawals, which were expected but still raise questions about when he will be able to return to action.

"Took my time off, started rehab, gym and physiotherapy as instructed by the doctors," Nadal wrote as part of a thread on Twitter that included videos showing him in the gym. "Getting ready to come

back ... in the best conditions."

He is a three-time winner and reached the 2022 final at the BNP Paribas Open in California, where the men begin main-draw play on March 8. That will be followed by the Miami Open, another Masters 1000 tournament, where ATP action starts on March 22 and Nadal last competed in 2017. He has never won the title there and is a five-time runner-up, including two losses apiece in finals against rivals Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic.

After Miami, the men's tennis circuit shifts to the European red clay, leading up to the French Open

in late May.

Nadal has won 14 of his major titles at Roland Garros, including last year while dealing with chronic pain in his left foot. He then made it to the semifinals at Wimbledon but did not play in that round at the All England Club because of an abdominal injury.

And then, in January at Melbourne Park, the 36-year-old from Spain hurt his hip flexor during a second-round loss to Mackenzie McDonald of the United States.

An MRI exam the next day revealed the extent of the injury. Nadal and his manager said at the time that the usual recovery time is about six to eight weeks.



In this Jan. 23, 2018, file photo, Spain's Rafael Nadal answers questions at a press conference after retiring injured from his quarterfinal against Croatia's Marin Cilic at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia.

Associated Press

Nadal has lost seven of his past nine matches, dating to a fourth-round defeat at the U.S. Open in September, and the former No. 1-ranked player slid to No. 8 in the ATP standings

this week. The longer he is out, the more he will drop — including because he will not be defending the points he earned at Indian Wells a year ago by reaching the final. □

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A PGA Tour offering no guarantees can still deliver

By **DOUG FERGUSON**
AP Golf Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — LIV Golf chose to start its new season when the PGA Tour's biggest stars were certain to be taking the week off. What the rival league got was a reminder that a tour offering no guarantees can still deliver when least expected.

The Honda Classic was the odd tournament out during five weeks of big-money events on the PGA Tour, one reason it attracted only eight players from the world's top 50, the weakest field so far this year.

One of them was Chris Kirk, who stepped away from golf in 2019 to seek treatment for alcoholism and depression. Kirk once said that anxiety and pressure led him to find the right amount of booze he needed to feel normal.

There was a different variety of pressure Sunday at PGA National when Kirk was locked in a battle with 34-year-old Eric Cole, who had to overcome health issues of his own and an unusually long journey just to reach the big leagues.



Chris Kirk kisses the trophy after winning the Honda Classic golf tournament in a playoff against Eric Cole, Sunday, Feb. 26, 2023, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

Kirk delivered a clutch birdie on the 16th for the lead. He nearly gave it away with a bad swing at the wrong time, sending a fairway metal off the rocks and nearly onto a car parked on a platform in the middle of the lake right of the par-5 18th.

Instead, he won in playoff by nearly holing out with a wedge, leading to a TV interview unlike most others. "I'm so grateful for my sobriety," Kirk said, no longer in his role as emotional robot inside the ropes. "I'm so grateful for my family.

I'm so grateful for everyone who supported me throughout the past three or four years."

Kirk is not driven purely by money. Otherwise, he would have played the previous week at Riviera with a \$20 million purse. He didn't feel the course suited him as well as PGA National, and he had an eye on his No. 47 world ranking, knowing the top 50 in a month's time get into the Masters. The win sends him back to Augusta National for the first time in seven years.

Not to be overlooked was

Cole, who has 56 wins on the Minor League Golf Tour, the most recent one in January that paid him \$1,500. That was about 5 miles from PGA National, where second place at the Honda Classic paid him \$907,200. Cole comes from golf stock. His father is former PGA Tour winner Bobby Cole of South Africa. His mother is Laura Baugh, a former LPGA Tour rookie of the year. She looked to be more nervous than Cole as she followed along on the back nine.

There was disappointment, sure, along with a touch of class. After Kirk hit his wedge tight in the playoff, Cole twice looked back and flashed him a thumbs-up.

Cole made a remarkably tough bunker shot look easy, but his 10-foot birdie putt to extend the playoff spun around the left side of the cup.

His road to this point hasn't been easy. Cole was diagnosed while in college at Nova Southeastern University with Type 1 diabetes and Addison's disease, which causes the adre-

nal glands to not produce enough hormones. His weight dropped to about 120 pounds (54 kg).

Cole spent some 10 years on mini-tours, and as he was starting to pile up top 10s on the Korn Ferry Tour last year, he learned his younger brother, Michael, died suddenly at age 28.

Cole has been thrown a lot in life, and with that comes refreshing humility. He is easy to cheer for, and he will be at Bay Hill this week for the Arnold Palmer Invitational on a sponsor exemption. "I can't wait to do it again," he said.

And then there was Ryan Gerard, a 23-year-old from North Carolina who got the final spot in the Honda field through a Monday qualifier and then flirted with contention on the weekend. His fourth-place finish was worth \$403,200 and earned him a spot in the Puerto Rico Open this week.

Meanwhile, across the Gulf of Mexico at Mayakoba, Charles Howell III won the season debut of LIV Golf with a flawless final round of 63 for a four-shot victory over Peter Uihlein. □



Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin watches as Pittsburgh takes on Georgia Tech during the first half of an NCCA college basketball game in Pittsburgh, Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2023.

Associated Press

By **JOHN WAWROW**
AP Sports Writer

Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin has a few more

visits to doctors before determining whether he can pursue his goal of returning to play football after go-

Bills GM: Hamlin's return hinges on his medical progress

ing into cardiac arrest and having to be resuscitated on field in January.

In providing the update at the NFL combine in Indianapolis on Tuesday, Bills general manager Brandon Beane said Hamlin's "end game" is to resume playing so long as he receives the necessary medical clearance. "If we're able to get full clearance and he feels he's ready to do it, that's another big smile of a story. Not only that he's

just got his life back, but that he'd have his football career back," Beane said. "I would love to give the storybook ending that he's definitely going to play, but we just don't know that yet. But if he does, we'll be very happy for him."

Beane said "all is well" with Hamlin's test results after visiting numerous specialists around the country, with two or three more visits still scheduled. He said the Bills medical staff is travel-

ing with Hamlin to get a clear picture of the player's status, because the team would also have to provide clearance in allowing him to return to the field.

Hamlin has enjoyed what doctors are calling a remarkable recovery since collapsing on the field after making what appeared to be a routine tackle in the first quarter of a game against the Bengals which was suspended and eventually canceled. □